

REMARKS

Claim 3 and 8-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been canceled by this Amendment. In the December 23, 2008 Final Office Action (the "Action"), Claims 1-2 and 4 were rejected, Claim 3 was objected to, and Claims 8-10 were allowed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks and amendments herein.

Allowable Subject Matter/ and Claim Objections

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 8-10, and for the indication that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form, and claims 1, 2 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants thank the Examiner for having returned the signed forms SB/08 from the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 16, 2006. Applicants noticed however, that although signed and returned, the PTO Forms SB/08 were not initialed next to each reference, indicating that the references have been considered. Although Applicants assume the references were in fact considered, the Examiner is requested to initial next to each reference and return the initialed Forms SB/08 to Applicants to complete the record and ensure there is no confusion with respect to whether or not the references were considered.

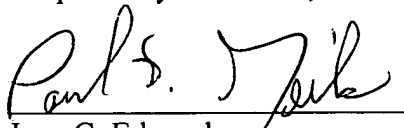
Conclusion

Because each objection and rejection has been addressed and is believed to be overcome herein, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the application.

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such an extension or for any net addition of claims is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,



Jean C. Edwards

Registration No. 41,728

Paul F. Neils

Registration No. 33,102

(57362)
AKERMAN SENTERFITT
8100 Boone Boulevard
Suite 700
Vienna, Virginia 22182-2683
www.akerman.com
703 394-1380 direct tel
703 394-1399 direct fax
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